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Kawakami, K. K. *American-Japanese Relations.* Pp. 370. Price \$2.00. New York: F. H. Revell Company, 1912.

This book, by a Japanese journalist, is an interpretation and defense of Japan's foreign policies and is written with the avowed purpose of dispelling the growing misunderstanding of the American people in regard to American-Japanese relations. "An inside view of Japan's policies and purposes," the book is written with an unusually firm grasp of facts and a breadth of view and fairness of treatment that will commend it at once to every unbiased reader who is seeking the truth in regard to the attitude of Japan toward America. The book is, in some respects, an answer to Thomas F. Millard's well-known "America and the Far Eastern Question," which is very severe in its criticisms of Japan, and might well be read by those who have perused Mr. Millard's work.

The book is divided into three parts. The first considers The Manchurian Question, in which American diplomatic and commercial questions are, of course, most fully treated. The soy bean, the author says, is the "key to the Manchurian Question," and is the only important produce of Manchuria, used but little by the Manchurians themselves and practically unknown to Western nations. "Nine-tenths of the Manchurian produce is now purchased by the Japanese. Here lies the secret of success which Japan's export trade has secured in Manchuria. Here also is where the indiscriminate talk about the closing of the 'open door' came in. Let American traders go into the interior of Manchuria and buy beans and bean-cake and bean-oil, just as the Japanese are doing, and they may rest assured that their export trade to Manchuria will increase proportionally, just as Japan's has."

Part II takes up the Korean Question and Part III The Immigration Question. This latter is an excellent résumé of the events on our own Pacific coast that precipitated the immigration difficulties with Japan and of the present status of the Japanese in California. While occasional questions may be raised as to the author's interpretation of Japan's acts, none can be raised as to his sincerity or his open-mindedness. It is this feature combined with his knowledge of the facts that makes the work especially valuable as an exposition of the Japanese side of the questions discussed.

G. B. ROORBACH.

University of Pennsylvania.

King, Clyde L. (Ed.). *The Regulation of Municipal Utilities.* Pp. ix, 404. Price \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1912.

Throughout the life of the National Municipal League papers by high authorities on different aspects of the municipal franchise problem have been read at the annual meetings. The most significant of these essays have been edited by Dr. King and collected in this volume. Together they give a comprehensive and accurate survey of the complicated and urgent problem which every large city in America faces to-day.

Though the editor discusses separately Municipal Ownership versus Adequate Regulation and sums up the debate in a brief and well-balanced Conclusion, the bulk of the book is descriptive and historical, an account, by insiders,

of what has been done by the municipal and state utility commissions in Massachusetts, New York, Los Angeles, Kansas City, St. Louis and elsewhere. Rarely has any public topic been considered by a group of writers so well informed and so sanely progressive as are these essayists. On the whole the volume justifies the persuasion of the Introduction that it "will be of widespread usefulness alike to publicists, officials and instructors."

The conclusion of the whole matter arrived at is, that, under American conditions, virile regulation wins more benefits, at less risks, for the community, than public ownership and operation—the antiquated assumption that competition is either desirable or attainable as a regulator being dismissed with a wave of the pen. But it is recognized that regulation can be effective only if public ownership is possible as an alternative—"a gun behind the door." To forbid a city to manage its own utilities is to make the private corporations arrogant and avaricious.

How difficult and well-nigh impossible it is for an American city to reach the self-confidence and successful enterprise regularly displayed, with respect to public utilities, as this volume shows, by European cities, is illustrated by the experience of New York City on the rapid transit question, since this volume was compiled. Though the character of the Public Service Commission and of the Board of Estimate is above suspicion and the opportunity to complete the construction of a line already begun by the city was patent; yet, scared by the old bugaboo of municipal indebtedness, these bodies have made an agreement with the transit corporations under which the city takes all the financial risks of enormous extensions, under private control and operation, of the transit lines, with the practical certainty of being called upon heavily to subsidize the lines out of taxation. In return for this unprecedented subsidy the city will possibly secure a speedy enlargement of facilities, with the consequent extension of the residential area and improvement of housing conditions, a boon which may prove an offset to the speculative risks undertaken. But experience, as detailed in the book before us, with corporations in the past makes it extremely uncertain whether this speedy enlargement of facilities will actually accrue. If it do not, this, the greatest transaction ever entered into between an American city and private corporations, will be summed up in the slang phrase: "Sold again," a most discouraging conclusion to a decade of education and agitation.

JOHN MARTIN.

Stapleton, S. I.

King, Irving. *The Social Aspects of Education.* Pp. xv, 425. Price \$1.60. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

A reference or text-book designed for use in the training of progressive teachers and general source book of social education. The contents are made up largely of annotations books, of papers and reports by a group of educators who believe in a social basis for school training. Dewey, Snedden, Hanus, Bagley, Scott, Addams, O'Shea and others are extensively quoted. There are twenty well-chosen chapter-topics, each followed by excellent bibliographies. The first